

Wednesday, April 5, 2006
12:10 pm, Walter Hall

University of Toronto
Faculty of Music
Presents



A LECTURE-DEMONSTRATION BY BRIAN CHERNEY
Michael and Sonja Koerner Distinguished Visitor in Composition

Presentation of the Distinguished Visitor Award

The Faculty of Music is pleased to present its highest honour, the Distinguished Visitor Award, to Brian Cherney. Distinguished Visitor Award recipients are chosen from a roster of eminent visiting artists and scholars of the highest musical and scholarly repute. The recipients have set exemplary records in their respective disciplines and made a noteworthy contribution to the academic and performance programs at the Faculty of Music during their visits.

Lecture-Demonstration

Title: Literature as a Compositional Determinant



World Premiere - Saturday, April 8, 2006

Join us for the world premiere performance of Brian Cherney's
Quelques espaces entre les anges et la terre (2005), commissioned by the Faculty of Music, featuring the U of T Wind Ensemble conducted by Gillian MacKay.
Other works by Shostakovich, Stravinsky, Bernstein, Sparke and Grainger.
7:30 pm. MacMillan Theatre. \$13, \$7 senior/student

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BRIAN CHERNEY (b. 1942, Peterborough, ON) studied composition with Samuel Dolin at the Royal Conservatory of Music in Toronto and with John Weinzwieg at the University of Toronto where he received degrees in both composition (M. Mus.) and musicology (Ph.D.). In 1966 and 1969 he attended the Internationale Ferienkurse für Neue Musik in Darmstadt, West Germany, where he attended lectures given by Ligeti, Stockhausen and Kagel, among others.

His music has been performed and broadcast throughout Canada and in the United States, South America, Japan, Europe and Israel. He has received commissions from many organizations and individuals over the years, including the Stratford Festival, the Société de musique contemporaine du Québec, the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, the Alliance for Canadian New Music Projects, the York Winds, the Canadian Jewish Congress, the Eckhardt-Gramatté National Competition for the Performance of Canadian Music, the Esprit Orchestra, Rivka Golani, Louis Philippe Pelletier, Lawrence Cherney, John Grew and Joseph Petric.

Both Cherney's *String Trio* (1976) and his orchestral work *Into the Distant Stillness* (1984) were 'recommended' at the International Rostrum of Composers in Paris, the former tying for first place. In 1985 he was awarded the Jules Léger Prize for New Chamber Music for *River of Fire*, a work for oboe d'amore and harp. Another recent work, the *String Quartet No. 3*, was performed by the Raphael String Quartet in Hilversum, Holland, in 1986. Early in 1988, on a Canadian tour, *In the Stillness of the Summer Wind* for string quartet and oboe was performed by oboist Lawrence Cherney and the Chilingirian String Quartet. Cherney has recently completed a piece for the group Trio Basso of West Germany.

Cherney was influenced by Bartók and Weinzwieg during the early 1960's and later by such composers as Ligeti, Crumb, Lutoslawski, Messiaen and Carter. In recent years he has developed a primarily evocative and poetic personal style based on a coherent harmonic language and careful attention to temporal proportions. Certain kinds of music often recur, either literally or in an altered version, from one piece to another in cycles of inter-connected pieces. Also, many pieces contain direct quotations from, or veiled allusions to other, usually tonal music.

Since 1972 he has been on the staff of the Faculty of Music at McGill University in Montréal, where he is now Professor of Music. He teaches composition, analysis and twentieth-century music history.

PROCAN, Canadian League of Composers

Biography courtesy of the Canadian Music Centre